Functional anganwadi in every settlement

3500. SHRI A. VIJAYARAGHAVAN: Will the Minister of WOMEN AND CHILD DEEVLOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to provide a functional anganwadi in every settlement;

(b) if so, the details including the steps taken for universalisation of the Integrated Child Development Services to safeguard the child's right to nutrition, health and pre-school education;

(c) if so, the details including the cost estimates and time-frame for universalisation if any, State-wise category-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) One of the commitments envisaged in the National Common Minimum Programme (NCMP) of the Government is to provide a functional Anganwadi in every settlement and ensure full coverage of all children below six years of age.

In pursuance of this commitment the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) Scheme has been expanded twice in the last two years. The first expansion was in the year 2005-06 when 466 additional ICDS Projects and 1.88 lakh Anganwadi Centres (AWCs) were sanctioned. Under the 2nd phase of expansion during 2006-07, 166 additional Projects and 106726 AWCs and 25943 Mini-AWCs have been sanctioned. With these expansions, the total number of ICDS Projects, AWCs and Mini-AWCs has increased to 6284, 10.53 lakh and 36829 respectively.

(c) and (d) In order to universalize the ICDS Scheme, the exercise for the 3rd phase of expansion is under way. The States/UTs have already been addressed to indicate their requirements for additional Projects/ AWCs/Mini-AWCs for the purpose. It is expected that these AWCs would be sanctioned and operationalized by December, 2008. The cost estimates would be available only after receipt of the requirements from the States/UTs.